

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method for the treatment, curing or prevention of anemia in a patient, which comprises administering to said patient a combination of a Gas6 compound or a DNA sequence encoding a Gas6 compound and erythropoietin, or an analogue, mutant, variant or derivative of said erythropoietin, or a physiologically tolerated salt of said EPO derivative, either simultaneously or sequentially, thereby ensuring a synergistic rescue effect on erythropoiesis in said patient.
22. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said Gas6 compound is a Gas6 protein or an analogue, mutant, variant or derivative thereof, or a physiologically tolerated salt of said Gas6 derivative.
23. (New) The method of claim 21, which comprises administering a portion of an effective amount of said erythropoietin, or an analogue, mutant, variant or derivative of said erythropoietin, or a physiologically tolerated salt of said EPO derivative, normally required to treat anemia in said patient, thereby ensuring a reduced risk of adverse side-effects.

24. (New) The method of claim 23, which comprises administering 5 to 90% of the amount of said said erythropoietin, or an analogue, mutant, variant or derivative of said erythropoietin, or a physiologically tolerated salt of said EPO derivative, normally required to treat anemia in said patient.
25. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said patient is susceptible to the side-effects of Epo and for which treatment with Epo is contra-indicated.
26. (New) The method of claim 24, wherein said patient susceptible to the adverse side-effects of Epo is a patient suffering from hypertension.
27. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said patient is a patient which has an inadequate Epo response.
28. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said DNA encoding a Gas6 compound is comprised in a vector.
29. (New) The method according to claim 21, wherein said DNA encoding a Gas6 compound is engineered into a cell.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said anemia is caused by or associated with a disorder selected from the group consisting of chronic renal failure, aplastic anemia, hemolytic anemia, malignancy, an endocrine deficiency or is the result of chemotherapy.